

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Polio Cases in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal

2232. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of polio cases have been reported from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, despite resounding success of the pulse polio programme in other States;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for failure of the programme in these States, particularly Delhi and West Bengal;

(c) whether India had planned to declare itself polio free by the year 2000; and

(d) if so, in view of the reported large number of cases in some States, by when the country is expected to be polio free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 1999, while the number of confirmed polio cases and wild polio virus cases came down substantially in the rest of the country, polio transmission was still active in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi.

(b) It cannot be said that the programme has failed in the 4 States mentioned above. During the year 1998-99, there was a decline of 22 per cent in the number of polio cases in Bihar and 12 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. During 2000 till 22nd July, 2000, there has not been any polio case from Delhi and only 3 cases have been detected in West Bengal. Therefore, there has been a significant improvement in the polio situation in West Bengal and Delhi. Polio transmission is however still continuing in some parts of UP and Bihar, mainly because some children are still being missed during the Pulse Polio Immunization and the routine immunization programme.

(c) and (d) The current year's strategy for polio eradication calls for intensified efforts in the four States of the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi through a combination of fixed booth

immunization, house to house vaccination of missed children as also improvement in the standards and reach of routine immunization. Additional sub-national immunization days will be organized in the 4 States for controlling virus transmission. This strategy is expected to lead to the arresting of polio transmission in most parts of the country and a significant improvement even in the States of UP and Bihar by the end of the 2000-2001 winter season.

Installation of Incinerators in Delhi Hospitals

2233. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has served notices to Central Government and private hospitals in the capital for polluting the environment and posing a threat to the life of citizens;

(b) if so, whether hospitals have not installed incinerators, causing public health in danger;

(c) if so, the further steps Government propose to take to set up incinerators in Central Government hospitals in the capital; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against private hospitals which have not set up incinerators so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) It has been reported by the Central Government Hospitals, namely, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, LHMC & Associated Hospitals that they have not received notice from the High Court of Delhi in this regard. Information in respect of Private Hospitals in the capital is not available with this Ministry.

(b) and (c) The above mentioned Central Government Hospital are well equipped with incinerators which are functioning.

(d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has asked State Pollution Control Boards to take action against defaulting Health Care facilities.